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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ELIHU BONE.

By DAVID MCCOY BONE, Now Aged 73, the Oldest Grandson of Elihu Bone.

Elihu Bone was born October 22, 1795, and was the fourth child of John and Rebecca (Potts) Bone. His brothers were Enos, James and Henry; his sisters were Nancy, who married her cousin, Calvin Bone; Elizabeth, who married James Scott; Jemima, who married Jesse Vowell. The latter lived near Mt. Zion, Illinois, where the writer visited them in 1864.

John Bone, the father of Elihu, was a son of a John Bone, who was the son of one William Bone, who came from Ulster County, Ireland, about 1700 and settled in Pennsylvania, being among the first one of the Bone name to emigrate to America, and was of that hardy Scotch ancestry that had moved from Scotland into the north of Ireland many years before because of religious persecution. The name "Scotch-Irish" was applied to these people for geographical reasons rather than for any racial traits.

About the year 1750 the Bone, Hill, Potts and other families of the "Scotch-Irish" clan moved from Pennsylvania into what is now Iredell County, North Carolina.

John Bone, the father of Elihu, was married October 24, 1787, and soon afterwards moved to eastern Tennessee, settling on Fall Creek near Murfreesboro. Elihu Bone was born about the time his father moved to Tennessee, and here he spent his boyhood days amid the primitive conditions surrounding the early pioneers, with limited school privileges, but great necessity for hard work—the *sine qua non* of all who would make a home for themselves in a new country.

At the age of 17 years Elihu Bone, inheriting the Scotch love of liberty and the Irish delight in a scrap, volunteered and served under General Jackson in the War of 1812.



ELIHU BONE AND HIS WIFE, NANCY WARNICK BONE.

Elihu was married to Nancy Brown Warnick March 2, 1815, in Wilson County, Tennessee. "Go west, young man, go west," was a live question among the young men of that day, and, influenced by favorable reports from the Illinois country, Elihu Bone and family, in 1824, moved to Illinois and settled in Menard County (then a part of Sangamon County), being one of the first settlers in that section.

The long, trying trip was made overland in a covered wagon, which was the only means of transportation in those days. I remember hearing my father tell about the trip—how he, then a boy of 10, walked much of the way barefoot and drove the cows. The early pioneers, coming from a wooded country, always located near timber and running streams, so that they could have plenty of wood and water. Elihu Bone, following that custom, took up a claim on the south side of the timber at the head of Rock Creek, so named from the outcropping of stone along its banks. Here he entered a quarter section of land and built a comfortable two-story log house, which stood for many years; later building a large two-story frame house, which is still standing and the home of a Bone.

Being a wheelwright by trade and very handy with tools, he made spinning wheels, weaving looms and other appliances for the manufacture of their own wearing apparel, bed clothing, carpets, etc., not only for his own family, but for the nearby settlers as well. He also built a cotton gin for custom work; for, coming from the South, the first settlers had been growing cotton and tobacco, but they soon discovered that wheat, corn, oats and livestock were far more profitable in this section. As a boy—some sixty years ago—I remember seeing the discarded remains of the old cotton gin. Cotton was no longer "king" here.

Elihu Bone was a man of keen, quick and decisive judgment, and as fast as he got hold of fifty or one hundred dollars he would go to the Land Office at Springfield and buy or enter another piece of land, until he had secured a thousand acres adjoining and lying around the head of Rock Creek timber. As his sons became of age he gave each of them a farm, so that the neighborhood was known as the Bone settlement and remained so many years. The old original

homestead of Elihu Bone is now the home of one of his great-grandsons, Keach Bone, who is the oldest son of Robert E. Bone, who is the youngest son of Robert S. Bone, who, in turn, was the eldest son of Elihu Bone.

In religious faith and practice Elihu Bone was a strict Presbyterian, and when he moved from Tennessee he brought his church letter with him and united with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church which was then being organized on Rock Creek. He was chosen one of the elders and served until his death in 1857.

The centennial of his church will be celebrated in 1922.

He became the mainstay of the church, contributing liberally to its support. His house was the home of the preachers, and before a meeting house was erected religious services were often held there. He was largely instrumental in organizing the annual campmeeting on Rock Creek and in building the large permanent auditorium with clapboard roof and seats of slabs (smooth side up), seating 500 people or more. To these campmeetings would come settlers for miles around, some in ox-drawn wagons, and camp on the ground during the meeting. Some erected substantial wooden tents, which stood from one camping time to the next. Elihu Bone built one of the largest of this class which, like his home, was the stopping place of the preachers. It was the custom of the tent owners to see that everybody was fed who came to the meeting. On one occasion Elihu Bone, after feeding fifty or more at dinner, went out to the stand and invited everyone who had not had dinner to come to his tent, as they still had something left.

Among the ministers who assisted at these camp meetings were John M. Berry, the man that organized the church in 1822; Gilbert Dodds, Abner W. Lansden, Guthrie White and Peter Cartwright. After the death of Elihu Bone his sons took up his mantle and followed in his footsteps as long as they lived; and now one of his grandsons, Robert E. Bone, has taken their places in the active and earnest representation of the Bone family in church matters, which has been continuous for nearly one hundred years.

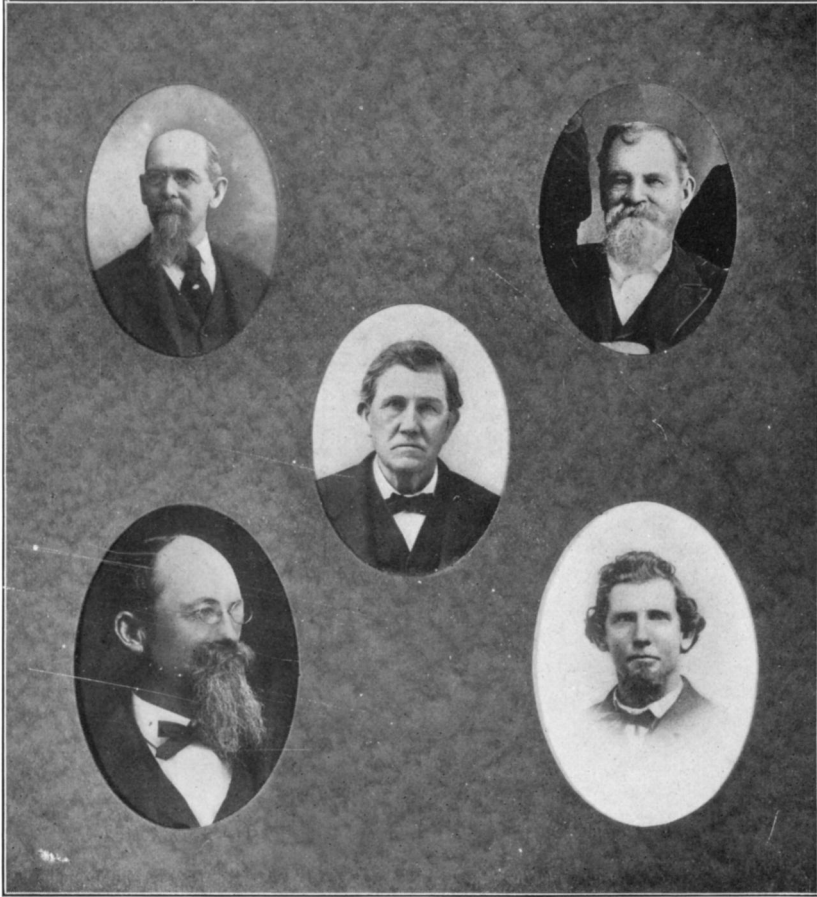
In politics Elihu Bone was a conservative Whig. He served as justice of the peace for many years, was a member

December 26th 1824 ~~at~~
~~the~~ ~~W. L. Smith~~
I have this day a door opened
for the reception of members
Elihu Bone presented his letter
in words following to wit
This is to certify that, Elihu Bone
is a ruling Elder (his wife
Nancy) are in full communion
in the Cumberland Presbyterian
Church. on Fall Creek & now
Leaves it free from any charges
of scandal or immorality known
to the Church, there children
are also in the Church, & are
thereby recommended to the care
of that Church in the bounds of
which there lots may be cast
Signed by order of Session this
30th Day of August 1824.
Rutherford County, The Donnell
Tennessee State. Clerk

CHURCH LETTER OF ELIHU BONE.

1

2



3

4

1. THOMAS P. BONE.

2. JOHN C. BONE.

3. ELIPHALET L. BONE.

4. WILLIAM F. BONE.

CENTER—ROBERT S. BONE.

of Menard County's first grand jury (which, by the way, held its sessions under the shade of a big tree), was a member of the Illinois legislature, 1842-1844, always standing for the interests of the common people. He had the courage of his convictions and was not afraid to express them. He was of that great middle class that does the world's work—neither aristocrat nor serf—granting justice to all and demanding justice for himself. He was quick to resent an insult. Once, when he was enfeebled by age and confined to his chair most of the time, I saw him hobble out of doors, seize a pitchfork standing by the chimney and totter after a man who had insulted him, chasing him out of the yard. The fellow jumped on his horse and galloped away.

Eleven children were born to Elihu and Nancy Bone, as follows:

Robert Smith—Born 1816, died 1888.

John Coleman—Born 1817, died 1901.

Harriet E.—Born 1819, died 1851.

Elizabeth—Born 1821.

James Warnick—Born 1824, died 1843.

William Foster—Born 1827, died 1869.

Margaret R.—Born 1829, died 1859.

Andrew Elihu—Born 1831, died 1849.

Henry Houston—Born 1833, died 1854.

Thomas Potts—Born 1836, died 1902.

Eliphalet Lansden—Born 1840, died 1917.

The five sons who lived to middle and old ages were Robert S., John C., William F., Thomas P., and Eliphalet L. All were successful farmers and business men and had the respect and confidence of the community in which they lived. Especial mention may be made of Robert S. and Thomas P. Bone, as their father's mantle fell largely upon them in church matters. These two sons—Robert as an elder and Thomas as a deacon and community leader—became and remained the mainstay in church and community affairs for over thirty years.

Mention may be made also of John C., or "Jack" Bone, as he was called, who was one of the first men in that section to buy and ship stock to the Chicago market, even before there were any stockyards, jumping the cattle on to the

prairie from the cars and driving them to the slaughter houses. He was trusted by the farmers with their stock until he returned, bringing them their money in gold, for bank checks were not current in those days, but *gold was money*.

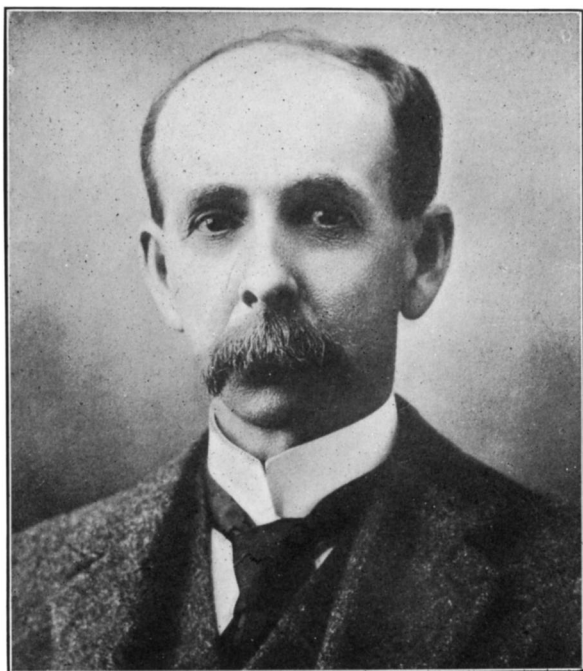
The grandsons of Elihu Bone were all given good educations, several of them being college graduates, one a graduate of Yale in 1870, the only one of the Bone name that ever graduated from that college. Being of an athletic build, he was chosen captain and stroke of the Yale crew that rowed against Harvard in 1870 and won.

Charles and Orlin, sons of Jack Bone, followed their father's lead as livestock men and are still connected with the livestock business in Chicago and Kansas City. Charles and Noah, sons of William F. Bone, were pioneers in developing the wonderful fruit-growing business of eastern Oregon and Washington.

Harry J. and Roy L., sons of Thomas P. Bone, made honorable records for themselves in the political and business life of Kansas. Harry J. was a successful lawyer and served two terms (eight years) as United States District Attorney for the State of Kansas. Roy L. was elected one of the commissioners of the city of Topeka—the last time by a unanimous vote less one—he being too modest to vote for himself. He is now president of the Guaranty State Bank of Topeka and has the respect and confidence of the business men of that city.

Of the three living sons of Eliphalet L. Bone, Eugene is a successful lawyer of Springfield, Illinois; William, or "Bill" Bone, is of Peoria, Illinois, and has an enviable reputation as a platform speaker and entertainer; John Bone is a successful physician of Pontiac, Illinois.

Of Robert S. Bone's four sons, three were farmers and stockmen and one engaged in the manufacturing business. Finis E. of Ava, Illinois, now deceased, was for years engaged in the hog business, being a successful breeder of high-grade Chester Whites, taking the grand sweepstakes prize on dressed carcasses for five successive years at the Chicago International Livestock Exposition. James Franklin is a successful dairy and fruit farmer of Fort Scott, Kansas. Robert Edgar, the youngest son, lives on the old home farm



DAVID McCOY BONE.
Eldest Grandson of Elihu Bone.

on Rock Creek in Menard County, Illinois. Besides his farming and livestock business, he finds time to take an active interest in all things for the betterment of the community.

The Rock Creek community, as it is called, is a strictly rural community. It is situated out in the open country, five miles from the nearest town. Among writers on rural life it is spoken of as an ideal community. The dreams of Elihu Bone and his sons have been realized in that the community has maintained regular preaching services for nearly one hundred years and employs an able resident minister, also has an up-to-date community high school located near the church. That this is true is largely due to the earnest labors and planning of Elihu Bone, his children and grandchildren.

They early recognized that an active church with a resident minister and an up-to-date school are the fundamentals in permanent community building.

Robert Edgar, or "Ed.," as he is called, being of an inquiring turn of mind, and curious to know whence he came, and who he was, devoted much time, energy and perseverance in tracing the history of the Bone family in America, and to him we are indebted for the information which will appear later in book form and which should be appreciated by every "Scotch-Irish" man of the Bone name.

David M., the eldest son of Robert S. Bone, was engaged in the manufacturing business for many years and is now living a quiet life in Mount Washington, Missouri, a suburb of Kansas City.

- John Coleman Bone (1817-1901)..... { John (H)
(m) Catharine Foster (m) Robert Harrison (H)
(m) Elizabeth Purvines (n-l) Pleasant Plazess, Ill. (H)
(m) Lydia Ann Purvines Mary E. Bone (1880)
(m) Frances Purvines (n-l) Long Ill.
He spent most of his life in Men- (n-l) Chicago, Ill.
ard and Sangamon Cos., but the (m) Carrie Bone (1868)..... { Frances
later part of his life he lived in (m) ——— Barret
Chicago. (m) Charles Reed Bone (1866) (n-c)
(n-l) Harriet Tomlinson
(m) Orten Bone (1871)..... { Robert Coleman Bone
(m) Clara Pasture (n-l) Kansas City, Mo.
Charles (P)
Thomas (P)
Jennie (P)
Virginia Bone (1852)..... { William B. (O)
(m) George Conover Ernest B. (O)
(n-l) Virginia, Ill. George B. (O)
Theodosia Bone (1856-1899)..... { Virginia (O)
(m) Arthur Pickeral, Buffalo, Ill. Priscilla (P)
(n-l) Georgia Middleton Theodosia (P)
(m) Lulla Jay Bone (1861) (n-m) Virginia (P)
(n-l) Springfield, Ill. Mildred (P)
Noah H. Bone (1869) Marion (P)
(m) Lottie Gould
(n-l) Hood River, Oregon
Harry J. Bone 1862-1918..... { Harry J. Bone (1890)
(m) Lottie McConnell, Topeka, (m) Mildred Jane Bone (1901)
Kans.
Luella Bone (1869)..... { Elizabeth (B)
(m) ——— Barroll
(n-l) California
Roy Lindsey Bone (1875)..... { Frances Elinor Bone (1908)
(m) Jessie Kendle Constance Carolyn Bone (1909)
(n-l) Topeka, Kans. Mary Esther Bone (1911)
Margaret Bone 1892-1918)..... { Paul B. (H)
(m) Albert Hartley, Petersburg, Ill.
Jennie Bone (1864) (n-m) Peters-
burg, Ill.
Eugene E. Bone (1867)..... { Robert Bone (1906)
(m) Alice Gehlman Frances Bone (1908)
(n-l) Springfield, Ill.
William A. Bone (1869)..... { Isabel Bone (1909)
(m) Floy Black
(n-l) Peoria, Ill.
Lillie Bone (1872) (n-c)
(m) Frank Golden
(n-l) Petersburg, Ill.
Ida Bone 1876-1916..... { Harold (E)
(m) Dr. Emery Knis Billie Gene (E)
Lee Bone (1876-1903)
John Bone, M.D. (1882)
(m) Grace Scatterday, Pontiac, Ill.
- John Coleman Bone (1817-1901).....
(m) Catharine Foster
(m) Elizabeth Purvines
(m) Lydia Ann Purvines
(m) Frances Purvines
He spent most of his life in Men-
ard and Sangamon Cos., but the
later part of his life he lived in
Chicago.
Harriet Bone (1819-1851).....
(m) Robert Perkins
Elizabeth Bone (1821)
(m) ——— White (n-r)
James W. Bone (1824-1843)
William Foster Bone (1827-1869)..
Lived and died in Menard and
Sangamon Co., Ill.
(m) Fairinda Priscilla Osburne
Margaret Bone (1829-1856)
Andrew Elihu Bone 1831-1849
Henry Houston Bone (1833-1854)
Thomas Potts Bone (1836-1902)....
He lived most of his life in Men-
ard and Logan Co., Ill., but
later he moved to Lincoln, Ill.,
and afterward to K a n s., and
died in Wichita, Kans.
(m) Eliza Jane Thompson of Cass
Co., Ill.
- Eliphalet Lansden Bone (1840-1917)
He lived and died in Menard Co.,
Ill.
(m) Itha Purvines